

regi news

newsletter of the committee on regional development



Next Committee meeting

Wednesday 23 January 2013

9.00 - 12.30

15.00 - 18.30

Thursday 24 January 2013

Room PHS 3 C 50

in focus

- **Report back on the Interinstitutional negotiations of the 2014-2020 EU Cohesion Policy**
- **Exchange of views with Mr Brendan Howlin TD, Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform**
- **Presentatiuon of an external study on "Integrated urbantransport plans and cohesion policy"**

comments and subscriptions at regi-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

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Next Publication

Committee Meeting of

Tuesday 19 February 2013
9.00 - 12.30 and 15.00 - 18.30

Useful Internet links

EP Library - Info on items related to regional development
OEIL - The Legislative Observatory
Regional Policy InfoREGIO
EUR-Lex
Committee of the Regions
EP studies Website
REGI Website



part 1 meeting of 23-24 January 2013

Here you will find the topics which will be discussed at the next REGI committee meeting on 23 and 24 January 2013. The following items will be discussed as foreseen in [the draft agenda](#). Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc.) are available at our website [REGI](#).

1. External Study on "Integrated urban transport plans an cohesion policy" (Point 4 of the draft agenda)

At around 350 million people, roughly 70% of the EU population live in an urban context often characterised by problems like congestions, air pollution & quality and traffic safety. In order to guarantee the right of mobility and a decent and sustainable quality of life, these phenomena demand an effective and efficient management of public and private traffic flows integrating relevant social, economic and environmental aspects and all actors concerned. In this regard "Integrated urban transport plans" (or Sustainable urban transport/mobility plans), which enable adequate planning of those traffic flows, become a key policy instrument.

As with every instrument which finances projects in urban areas, including those on transport, EU Cohesion Policy should ideally be aligned with adequate planning, i.e. be somehow linked to an integrated/sustainable urban transport plan.

As shown by the above-mentioned study, however, in practice the existence and quality of the link between urban transport projects supported by cohesion policy funding and integrated/sustainable urban transport plans (if such exist) depend heavily on local circumstances indicating the need, but also the potential, for increasing synergies between the two policy instruments in the future.

Following the presentation of the study by members of the research team lead by Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (DE), the experts will be available for Q&A with Members of the European Parliament.

2. Regional strategies for industrial areas in the European Union - Exchange of views with Mr Claus Schultze, Policy Analyst at European Commission (Point 5 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Jens Geier (S&D)
Responsible administrator: Ana Dobre
Procedure: 2012/2100(INI)
Main committee: REGI

The rapporteur will present his ideas in which respects his draft report. Following the presentation made by the EC expert, the committee will hold an exchange of views.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 27/11/2012, 23/01/2013
Working document: 19/02/2013 (tbc)
Consideration of draft report: 18/03/2013 (tbc)
Deadline for amendments: 21/03/2013 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 23/04/2013 (tbc)
Adoption in plenary: May 2013 (tbc)

3. Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (Point 6 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)
Responsible administrator: Gabriel Alvarez
Procedure: 2012/0295(COD)
Main committee: EMPL - Emer Costello

One of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy is to dramatically reduce the number of deprived people. This objective has become a bigger challenge given the current economic crisis. In this context, the European Commission has proposed a new and complementary fund in order to strengthen the existing social cohesion tools. This Fund focuses on the most deprived people and aims to provide them access to the basic alimentary needs. The 2014-2020 budget proposed is 2.5 billion € coming from the ESF budget.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 23/01/2013
Consideration of draft opinion: 19/02/2013 (tbc)
Deadline for amendments: 21/02/2013 (tbc)
Adoption REGI: 19/03/2013 (tbc)
Adoption EMPL: 23/04//2013 (tbc)
Plenary:

4. 2011 discharge: EU general budget - Section III - Commission (Point 7 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht (PPE)
Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho
Procedure: 2012/2167/(DEC)
Main Committee: CONT - Jens Geier

The Rapporteur, Mr. Jan Olbrycht, will submit his draft opinion to the Committee, where, on the basis of the 2011 Annual Report of the Court of Auditors, he considers that although the level of error in the implementation of cohesion policy has been progressively decreasing, regional policy remains one of the policy areas which is particularly error prone, noting that infringement of public procurement rules remains the most frequent reason for irregularities along with the non-compliance with eligibility rules.

Noting the increasing level of suspension and interruption of payments carried out by the Commission, the Rapporteur further notes that in spite of the fact that the Commission ensures corrective actions to be systematically initiated whenever deficiencies are identified, the Court of Auditors considers that there is no

assurance that financial correction mechanisms adequately compensate the detected errors, nor that they prevent the recurrence of such errors.

Finally, while observing the continuous efforts of the Commission to reinforce and at the same time simplify the control provisions for cohesion policy, the Rapporteur also draws attention to the multiannual nature of cohesion policy management system, underlining in this respect that the final evaluation of irregularities related to the policy implementation will be possible only at the closure of the programming period.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 23/01/2013

Deadline for amendments: 28/01/2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 19/02/2013 (tbc)

Adoption CONT: 18/03/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary 16/04/2013 (tbc)

5. Exchange of views with Brendan Howlin TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, President in office of the Council, on the priorities of the Irish Presidency (Point 8 of the draft agenda)

Mr Brendan Howlin TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, President in office of the Council, will come to the committee in order to inform the Members on the priorities of the Irish Presidency. An exchange of views will follow with the members.

6. Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006 (Point 9 of the draft agenda)

Co-rapporteurs: Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE) &

Constanze Angela Krehl (S&D)

Responsible administrators: Diana Haase, Ana

Maria Dobre

Procedure: 2011/0276 (COD)

The Rapporteurs will report back to REGI Committee on the outcome of the trilogue meetings on the CPR, which took place on the 18th of December and 8th of January. The feedback on the inter-institutional negotiations will focus on end on the thematic block on the strategic approach and programming and the Thematic Concentration, and the Common Strategic Framework (CSF).

So far, the negotiations have led to a stronger partnership principle providing local and regional authorities with a strengthened role in policy implementation, and providing for a European code of conduct setting out a common framework for partnership

Horizontal issues such as equality between men and women, accessibility for persons with disabilities, social inclusion and biodiversity and ecosystem protection, demographic change have been defended to be strongly included in compromise texts.

A compromise has been made on provisions for the content of the Partnership Agreement, programmes and in particular operational programmes. With these first achievement REGI has been faithful to its commitment to provide for legal certainty for programming in due time. The agreement on this first block on Strategic approach and programming gives more certainty to regional and national actors who can start to prepare Partnership Agreements and programmes on this basis, and hopefully delays in starting to roll out those programmes can be

avoided. Common provisions agreed so far apply to 5 funds (ERDF, CF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF), meaning that these negotiations are preparing the ground for better spending of EU resources across policy areas.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 22/11/2011; 19/12/2011, 19/12/2011

Consideration of working doc.: 25/01/12, 27/02/12, 19/03/12

Consideration of draft report: 26/04/2012, 08/05/2012, 29/05/2012

Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012, 07/06/2012

Consideration of amendments: 20-21/06/2012

Adoption REGI: 12 July 2012 (mandate)

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

7. Specific provisions concerning the European Regional Development Fund and the 'Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (Point 11 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Jan Olbrycht (PPE)

Responsible administrator: Dagmara Stoerring

Procedure: 2011/0275(COD)

The Committee on Regional Development adopted its Mandate for opening inter-institutional negotiations on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on European Regional Development Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1008/2006 at its meeting on 11 July 2012. Two trilogue meetings were held with the Cyprus Presidency: on the 26th of November and the 5th of December and the meeting scheduled for the 13th of December has been cancelled on the request of the Cyprus Presidency. The first trilogue concerned Article 3 on the scope of support and articles related to the urban development: 7, 8, and 9. During the second trilogue, remaining issues from Articles 8 and 9 have been discussed and the next thematic block: Thematic concentration has been opened with a presentation of positions on Article 4. The calendar for January/February has been established with the Irish Presidency with the next trilogue meeting programmed for the 21st of January, followed by the 31st of January, 18th of February, 21st of February, and the 26th of February. It has to be emphasised that the negotiations on the ERDF depend entirely on the negotiations on the CPR.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012, 20/03/2012, 8/05/2012

Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012

Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012

Consideration of amendments: 20-21/06/2012

Adoption REGI: 11 July 2012 (mandate)

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

8. Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (Point 12 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Victor Boştinaru (S&D)

Responsible administrator: Carla Carvalho

Procedure: 2011/0274(COD)

The Negotiating Team has held its first preparatory meeting on 2 October, having then established a calendar for the trilogue meetings to be proposed to the Commission and the Council.

The first trilogue on this file was held on 4 December, with Article 2 (Scope of support from the Cohesion Fund) and Article 3 (Investment priorities) on the agenda. At this first trilogue, the institutions have come to some understandings on some issues referred to in those provisions, on one hand, and some parts of the text will be modified or rephrased for further consideration, on the other. The issue of the Connecting Europe Facility (amendment 15) was left for a later stage, as further clarification is necessary in line with the outcome of the negotiations on this facility.

In the framework of the procedure of reporting back to the Committee on progress made so far in the negotiations, the four column table will be distributed and circulated among Members of the Committee.

There is still no other trilogue scheduled for the moment, as the Irish presidency has not yet informed the Parliament and the Commission on its availabilities for the first semester of 2013.

TIMETABLE

Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012

Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/12, 20/03/12

Consideration of draft report: 26/04/2012, 08/05/2012, 30/05/2012

Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012 (tbc)

Consideration of amendments: 20-21/06/2012

Adoption REGI: 11 July 2012 (mandate)

Updated draft report with outcome of the negotiations: (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: (tbc)

9. Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal (Point 13 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Riikka Manner (ALDE)

Responsible administrator: Franck Ricaud

Procedure: 2011/0273(COD)

The Rapporteur may report back to the Committee the undergoing status of negotiations that have begun in the framework of trilogues.

The Negotiating Team hold his constituency meeting on 02nd October, The Council has adopted a mandate on the 15th October Council, and the Trilogues were set up on 15th, 28th November, 4th and 17th December, dealing with articles 2, 7,8, 11,12, 17, 18 and 19 of the regulation.

Apart the tough positions of the European Parliament on Macro regional Strategies and Infrastructure projects to be considered within ETC programmes, a common ground is likely to be found on many of the items discussed.

This gives good chances to come up rapidly with an agreement between the three institutions on the articles part of the thematic block "programming" (articles 2,7,8, 11 and 12) and to begin the negotiations on the rules of eligibility (17,18 and 19).

The Rapporteur will also remind her follow up and good coordination with Common provisions Regulation and ERDF proposal, where many rules that apply also to ETC will be negotiated. She may then come to those respective trilogues to express her views on ETC when necessary.

TIMETABLE**Exchange of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012****Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/2012, 20/03/2012****Consideration of draft report: 08/05/2012, 30/05/2012****Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012****Adoption REGI: 11 July 2012 (mandate)****Adoption in plenary: tbc**

10. Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC) as regards the clarification, simplification and improvement of the establishment and implementation of such groupings (Point 14 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Joachim Zeller (PPE)**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev****Procedure: 2011/0272(COD)**

This amending Regulation makes changes, on the one hand, to respect the terminology introduced by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and on the other hand in response to the weaknesses and areas of potential improvement identified in the Report referred to above.

The rapporteur, Mr Zeller, is supporting the Commission's amending regulation and its overall approach and objectives. However, he considers that a number of elements can be further amended in order to improve the functioning of this territorial cooperation instrument. Amongst these ideas are: widening the scope of the EGTCs; facilitating the partnerships with Third countries; simplification of procedures for authorisation; extension of the tasks that can be carried by an EGTC; enhancement of the role of the Committee of the regions as a hub for EGTCs.

The Mandate was successfully voted in July 2012 as amended by the rapporteur. However, at the Council level work is expected to begin in January and adoption of a partial general approach is expected at the General Affairs Council meeting in February. In this perspective, trialogues may begin in beginning of March 2013.

TIMETABLE**Exchanges of views: 22/11/2011, 25/01/2012,****Consideration of working doc.: 28/02/2012, 20/03/2012****Consideration of draft report: 29/05/2012****Deadline for amendments: 31/05/2012 at 6 pm****Adoption REGI: 11/07/2012****Adoption in plenary: (tbc)**

11. Current challenges and opportunities for renewable energy in the European Internal Energy Market (Point 15 of the draft agenda)

Rapporteur: Riikka Manner (ALDE)**Responsible administrator: Stefan Manev****Procedure: 2012/2259(INI)****Main committee: ITRE - Herbert Reul**

The European Union has set the target for renewable energy at 20% of the total energy consumption in 2020. This support for the development of renewable energy production in the internal energy market has the aim to reaching three main objectives: cut CO2 emissions and meet the climate change goals; diversify the energy supply and produce an affordable energy to meet the future needs.

The renewable energy goal is a headline target of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Cohesion Policy plays a major role in reaching the Europe 2020 targets as it provides major investment support, including for the development of renewable energy.

Currently, the renewable sector is facing difficult times. On the one hand, the targets beyond 2020 are not certain a number of Member States have reviewed their support schemes while; on the other hand, the internal energy market grids are heavily burdened with the power produced.

In this context, the opinion, drafted by the Finish liberal MEP Mrs Riikka Manner, is looking at how to better exploit the potential of the Cohesion Policy support for the integration of renewable energy production in the internal market.

TIMETABLE

Consideration of draft opinion: 24/01/2013

Deadline for amendments: 28/01/2013 (tbc)

Adoption REGI: 19/02/2013 (tbc)

Adoption main committee: 18/03/2013 (tbc)

Adoption in plenary: 15/04/2013 (tbc)

12. Pilot Project on Roma Inclusion (Point 16 of the draft agenda)

The aim of the pilot project "Pan-European coordination of Roma integration methods - Roma Inclusion" was to produce a complex analysis based on the understanding of the Roma community's situation in the European Union, with an emphasis on that community's situation as regards education and training, from pre-school children, to further education of young mothers, through training for older people.

Emphasising consultation, networking, data collection, evaluation, field visits, research, it was also suggested to set up a Roma Unit in order to explore, from an EU policy implementation point of view, sectoral issues and propose appropriate actions and measures to be included in the proposals for a Roma Inclusion Action Plan, as well as to examine cross-sector cooperation and the use of all existing available financial instruments.

It was further noted the need for proposals on the housing and urban development aspects, the fight against crime and trafficking, as well as on basic registration problems.

It was considered that an essential prerequisite for success was a structured dialogue with Roma civil society, which should be developed at local, national and EU level.

The Parliament also reiterated the importance of developing strategies at EU and national level, making full use of the opportunities provided by EU funds, to abolish Roma segregation in education, to ensure equal access to quality education for

Roma children (participation in mainstream education, introduction of special scholarship and trainee programmes, additional and concrete measures to promote pre-school education for Roma children and postgraduate studies at national and international level for Roma students as well as educating an effective group of 'Roma diplomats' able to bridge the gap between Roma communities and public institutions), to ensure and improve Roma access to labour markets, to provide equal access to health care and social security benefits, to combat discriminatory practices in the provision of housing, and to increase the participation of the Roma in social, economic, cultural and political life.

The Roma pilot project ran until 2012, with a total budget for all components of EUR 5 million, under the management of DG REGIO. It comprised four projects aiming at:

- giving Roma children better access to quality education and care in early childhood;
- helping Roma people set up their own businesses, by providing advice and access to finance;
- combating discrimination against Roma people by raising public awareness;
- collecting and assessing data so that Roma inclusion policies can be based on hard evidence.

For a description of these projects, please refer to the Brochure entitled "Europe includes us all: The Roma Pilot project" (November 2011), available at the following European Commission's internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/roma_pilot_2011.pdf

The exchange of views foreseen for the Committee meeting of 23-24 January 2013 with Ms. Charlina Vitcheva, Director at European Commission DG REGIO, is aimed at giving Members of the REGI Committee a first overview of the data and results of the implementation of this pilot project.



part 2 meeting of 17-18 December 2012

Here you will find information on the issues discussed in the last REGI meeting held on 17 and 18 December 2012. The following items were discussed as foreseen in the draft agenda. No changes were introduced to the draft agenda. Please note that most committee documents (working documents, draft reports, etc.) are available at our website [REGI](#).

1. Exchange of views with Andreas Mavroyannis, Deputy Minister for European Affairs, President in office of the Council, on the balance of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Minister Mavroyannis, who was speaking for the last time before the end of the Cyprus Presidency, gave an in depth account of the overall process of the interinstitutional negotiations on the Cohesion Policy package.

The Minister expressed his strong satisfaction of the work that was accomplished by the Cyprus Presidency on both the MFF and a number of legislative files, namely Cohesion Policy, CAP and Fisheries. He mentioned the successful management of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) as a key tool for structuring the Union's future, via providing the necessary means to achieve the goals set out in the Europe 2020 Strategy, respecting the principle of solidarity and, thus, contributing to economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Minister Mavroyannis pointed out to the excellent cooperation between the Parliament and the Council in the context of the informal trilogues on the legislative package on Cohesion Policy. The Presidency did reach an agreement on the Strategic Programming bloc on December 19th 2012, which provides the Member States with legal certainty in the preparation and implementation of their programmes. Equally, Minister Mavroyannis noted the excellent work with EMPL committee on the ESF and confirmed his expectation that an overall agreement will be reached in all the remaining thematic blocks in time for the next period.

Rapporteurs on the CPR, rapporteurs on the other Cohesion Policy regulations, coordinators and other Members took the floor to express their satisfaction from the work achieved by the negotiating team and the presidency and their hope to see a successful Cohesion Policy adopted in 2013 under Irish Presidency.

2. Exchange of views with Walter Deffaa, Director-General on Regional and Urban Policy at the European Commission DG REGIO on the new structure and functioning of the Directorate-General

The recently appointed Director -General Walter Deffaa was invited to attend REGI committee to present himself and explaining the new structure and functioning of the DG REGIO.

First, the Director-General outlined briefly the main elements of his mission. He would like to position the policy as a policy for investment in growth and jobs – within a new economic policy mix: fiscal consolidation – structural reforms – and – provide regional policy targeted support for investments to support growth and jobs. Another mission would be to prepare for the new orientations of the 2014-2020 package: Focus on Europe2020, quality of spending, result orientation etc. To improve implementation – both in terms of content, compliance and absorption and to improve policy evaluation and policy development and communication.

Mr Deffa outlined that the new structure is leaner and more compact and will thus allow the better functioning of the Directorate -general. In his words the organisation needed some significant changes both in the organigram and in the way we work in order to attain this objective. Mr Deffa pointed out to the basic objectives of the reorganisation that can be summarized in three concepts:

- 1) Streamline the organisation, make it leaner more compact (by reducing the number of directorates by two, reducing the 'satellites' around the DG)
- 2) Overcome the 'horizontal' & geographical divide - Allows to deliver results by bringing the content (basically Europe 2020) closer into the programming.
To this end, Competence Centres within the geographical directorates will be created.
- 3) Balance change and stability - Stability in particular in relations with Member States, so we have not made major changes in the geographical units.

A number of Members took the floor to express their views on some of their priority topics, such as the functioning of DG REGIO, its responsibilities, but also urban dimension of Cohesion Policy, environmental standards, absorption rate and capacity building in some MS and others.

Mr Deffaa will come back to the committee in March in order to give account on the state of the implementation of the Cohesion Policy in the current period.

3. Exchange of views on the post 2013 EU Cohesion Policy with the following guest speakers representing NGOs:

- Sebastien Godinot - World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- Anne-Sophie Parent - AGE Platform Europe
- Julien Dijol - Housing Europe

With the participation of Peter Berkowitz, Head of the Unit Policy and Legislations 2014-2020, Interinstitutional Relations, European Commission.

In the framework of the CPR preparatory works, the Chair of the Committee on Regional Development invited experts representing leading European NGOs for an exchange of views on EU Cohesion Policy from the point of view of non-governmental organizations aiming at presenting to the Committee's Members the NGOs views in their respective areas in relation to the current revision of the legislative package for Cohesion Policy. The purpose of this exchange of views was to hear the NGOs specific views on the new legislative package for Cohesion Policy now under negotiation, with reference to the field of action and expertise of each participating NGO.

In this framework, participants were asked to give the Committee their input on issues as the thematic concentration and the proposed thematic priorities, and also their opinion on the specific provisions that relate to their respective fields of activity. Moreover, as regards more horizontal issues, they were also invited to present their views on issues like the local actions groups and the local led development, while referring in particular to any parts or provisions of the legislative package under negotiation that most concern them, in order to enhance as much as possible the practical and operational utility of the debate.

4. Votes

The following votes took place:

Rapporteur / Draftsperson	Report / Opinion	Result of the votes for/against/abstentions
Oldřich Vlasák	DRAFT OPINION on "The Governance of the single market" 2012/2260(INI) - (PE500.431)	adopted with amendments 31/2/1
Tamás Deutsch	DRAFT OPINION on "European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2013" 2012/2256(INI) - (PE500.427)	adopted with amendments 33/3/0
Mojca Kleva Kekuš	DRAFT OPINION on "European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2013" 2012/2257(INI) - (PE500.413)	adopted with amendments 35/2/0
Lena Kolarska-Bobińska	DRAFT REPORT on "The role of EU cohesion policy and their actors in implementing the new European energy policy" 2012/2099(INI) - (PE500.485)	adopted with amendments 22/17/2

5. Exchange of views with the rapporteurs on the ongoing interinstitutional negotiations on the Cohesion Policy package:

- **Common provisions on European Funds and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006**
- **'Investment for growth and jobs' goal and repeal of Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006**
- **Cohesion Fund and repeal of Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006**
- **Support from the European Regional Development Fund to the 'European territorial cooperation' goal**

(N.B. The exchange of views on the ETC Regulation was postponed due to the absence of the rapporteur)

The Respective Rapporteurs reported back from the Interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues) which have already begun for all the up mentioned regulations and presented the forthcoming steps with the ongoing Cyprus Presidency and their hopes to close a deal under the following Irish Presidency. Deputy- Director General, Nicolas Martin, gave an overview over the ongoing negotiation process and the quality of the recently concluded agreements.

The co-rapporteurs on the Common Provisions Regulation mentioned that during the 9 trilogues with the Cyprus Presidency the closure of the first thematic block has been accomplished, with agreements in principle (nothing is agreed until everything is agreed rule) on issues such as having a European Code of Conduct on partnership, on the 2 fold structure of the operational programmes, as well as on the final content of the partnership contract.

On the ERDF, rapporteur Jan Olbrycht outlined his overalls satisfaction from the first two trialogues. He also outlined the need for more work on a conflicting point - the transition regions and the amounts of the different thematic concentrations associated to every category of regions.

On the Cohesion Fund, rapporteur Victor Bostinaru outlined his satisfaction from the good work achieved during the first trialogue. He mentioned especially his satisfaction with the inclusion in the scope for support of not only the decommissioning, but also deconstruction of nuclear power plants. Another good achievement is the eligibility of district heating and high efficiency co-generation plants.



part 3 - other news

Here you will find the latest news related to Committee activities and cohesion policy issues



Chair's participation on events on behalf of the Committee

Ms Hübner, representing the committee, has accepted so far an invitation to participate (during the coming weeks) in the following events:

January 2013 (3rd week -TBC)	Brussels	Polish Minister Bienkowska	Conference on the state of play for the preparation of the 2014-2020 period
30 January 2013 at 14,00	EP meeting room or restaurant (tbc)	Mayors of Catalonia	Visit organised by the EP and EC offices of Barcelona
31 January 2013 at 14,00	Brussels	Randstad Region (Netherlands)	Celebration of its 20 years presence in Brussels on the challenges of the regions in European Union

More information is available at the Chair's website <http://danuta-huebner.pl/> or with the secretariat.

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REGI Library News

Recent publications in the field of Regional Development

Library Briefings



[Growth and sustainable urban development](#) / by Ivana Katsarova, posted on 10 January 2013

Two-thirds of the EU population live in urban areas where environmental, economic, demographic and social challenges are amplified. The EU has made a strong political commitment to sustainable urban development which is reflected through specific instruments and actions financed in the framework of current and future Cohesion policy.

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[The future of the European Union Solidarity Fund](#) /by Alessandro D'Alfonso, updated version 11 January 2013.

Over 11 years, the EU Solidarity Fund has helped countries hit by major natural disasters. But its functioning has shown room for some improvement. Parliament will discuss possible adjustments for the future of the Fund.

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Library Keyresources



[Fund for European Aid for the Most Deprived](#) / by Maria Isabel Moran Vidal, posted on 18 December 2012

On 24 October 2012, the European Commission (EC) announced a proposal to set up a new Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) to support national schemes providing food, clothing and other essential goods to the most-deprived, the homeless and materially-deprived children. The Europe 2020 strategy has placed fight against poverty and social exclusion as one of the core issues, committing itself to achieve the target of reducing the number of people in this situation by at least 20 million. In the last two years, far from improving, the number of people at poverty risk in Europe has increased due to the financial crisis.

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Publications



Regional studies / Regional Studies Association, monthly

Regional Studies is an international journal in theoretical development, empirical analysis and policy debate in the multi- and inter-disciplinary field of regional studies. It contains: high-quality research, critical surveys, policy debates and special thematic issues. (Available in the Library - see catalogue entry [here](#))

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Selected articles from vol. 47, issue 1, January 2013 - Special Issue on *Regional World(s): Advancing the Geography of Region 2013*:

Arguing with Regions /by John A. Agnew, pages 6-17 ([full text](#))

New Localities / by Martin Jones and Michael Woods, pages 29-42 ([full text](#))

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